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Our English Letter.

By EDWARD J. NANKIVELL.

London May 3, 1902.

The game of prices goes on. Since my last letter Gibbons has put a further stock of Orange River Colony 4d on 6d on sale at the old figure of 9d. Innocents who were caught at 3s 6d must be grinding their teeth. And I question very much whether those who were so ready to put up the price, with so little cause, will have bettered their selling chances, for, once caught twice shy.

The price of the Gold Coast 2d I understand is to be fixed at 2s 6d, and I think it should be worth that.

Another sporting item in new issues will probably be the recently issued Ugandas surcharged on British East Africa ½ anna and 1½ annas. Already they are obsolete. But an ominous announcement appears in an auction catalogue before me, to wit, "Lot 198. Uganda, 1902. on B. E. A. ½a. and 2½a. an unused pane of 60 of each, mint. Lot 199. A similar lot, but all postmarked." If Uganda has entered upon the "postmarked to order" business, a la Borneo, then I fear Uganda stamps will travel the same down grade as Borneo, and deservedly.

I may be foolish, and pig-headed, but from a philatelic point of view, I hold that any stamps postmarked to order are little better than deliberate swindles, for they constitute an attempt to palm off, as used stamps, things that have never seen a post office. When a stamp is offered, postmarked or cancelled, and still has the original gum, collectors should treat it as the rubbish that it unquestionably is.

The auctions are no doubt occasionally worked by price makers. What easier than to put a copy of a stamp into an auction and bid it up through a friend to any price, and then, having, in other ways well known, called the attention of philatelists to the record price and its evidence of rarity, simmer other copies through. I feel very suspicious of the price recently bid up for the Sierra Leone, 1d on 6d lilac and green of 1884. In the February number of the A. J. P. I quoted and commented on the then recent auction record price of £4.5.0 for this stamp. I now feel very dubious as to its being a genuine price, that, in fact, it may have been only a plant: I thought so at the time, and the number of copies on offer immediately thereafter, and the low price to which the stamp has since fallen, bear out my suspicion. The so-called rare variety without hyphen now fetches 20s, and even that price may be a maintained price.

Collectors need to be very wary in buying any stamps that have not an established catalogue or market price. If they are in ignorance of its claims to price they had far better leave the stamp alone, for, in their ignorance, they are more likely to burn their fingers than to make a haul. Stick to your legitimate dealer. He cannot afford to rook his customers.

Over anxiety to secure copies of stamps that are on the road to an increase in price not unfrequently leads to a premature increase. A case in point is the Niger Coast, ros violet. It is a good stamp and one that in all probability will some day be a long priced stamp. It is displaced by the Southern Nigeria series. It has since been much sought after. At the auctions it has been steadily rising from its current rate of 12s 6d to 26s. Suddenly Gibbons puts a supply on sale at 17s 6d. Truly it is very perplexing ing for the poor collector who wants to buy safely and wisely.

A quiet hunt is being made, just now, for copies of a variety in German stamps of the first issue of the head of Germania series that is said to be a great rarity. Mr. Franz Reichenheim, a well known specialist in the issues of his fatherland, thus describes it in a paper read before the Philatelic Society of London: "Of the 25, 30, 40, 50 and 80pf a few sheets were first printed showing the word "REICHSPOST' in the same size and thicknesss of the letters as in the one colored values (3, 5, 10 and 20pf.), but this size of print turned out to be too large for the tablet accorded to it, and was therefore reduced. As far as I know, some of the sheets in the first print were handed over to the Imperial Postal Museum, and its authorities used them for payment to dealers. Some of the latter, not noticing the difference, used them for franking purposes."

Some of these dealers, I may add, on making the discovery, circularized certain parties to whom they had sent sets which included the rarities, and offered very generous terms, or what appeared to be very generous terms, for the return of those first sets, but carefully witholding all allusion to the rarities. Suspicion was aroused and inquiries set on foot as to why this generosity and now Mr. Reichenheim supplies the clue.

So far as I can learn none have been found in any dealers stocks here, but the hunt goes on, for some got out into general use. What the variety will settle down to no one can say. I know of no one who will even venture on a guess as to its value. Personally, I am in happy position of having a set with the whole lot of the variety so that I have no need to join in the hunt.

London, May 17, 1902.

In my last letter I noted that New Zealands are full of sudden changes. Since then the news to hand from that colony has emphasized the fact to an unexpected extent. In addition to their troubles over the perforation of the new stamps the local authorities have trouble with the paper.

Some time ago I had a very interesting conversation with the able practical head of the Waterlow firm, and I asked him why it was their perforation was so unequal and irregular. He said stamps printed from steel engravings would never yield the sharp perforations of the De la Rue surface printed stamps, for the simple reason that in the case of steel engraving the paper had to be damped before printing, whereas in surface printing there was no need to wet the paper. Hence, in the steel plate printing the paper, despite all the careful drying to which it is subjected, will not perforate sharply, but the dry paper of surface printing cuts clean and sharp. I did not then raise the question of the U. S. stamps, which I understand are printed from steel plates, but are, nevertheless, very sharply perforated. Later on I will endeavor to get some further enlightenment on this interesting point.

For the present, the New Zealand authorities have apparently been faced by the same difficulties in regard to their perforation. Perforation has always been a weak point in New Zealand stamps, and the difficulty has been increased under the steel plate printing required by the Waterlow pictorial series.

First they had some paper sent out by Waterlow, then they tried the paper of one local mill, and then of another. As a consequence we have, within the last month or two, no less than three papers, each of which may be separated in our collections. Blocks of each variety are before me, for which I am indebted to Mr. H. L'Estrange Ewen. I will endeavor to clearly differentiate the papers for my fellow collectors, again emphasizing the necessity of picking up these new issue varieties while they may be had as the ordinary current stamps, for some of these things are certainly to be troublesome, and, perhaps, expensive later on.

- Waterlow paper. Thick, Wmk. "N. Z." over star. ½d perf. 11, 14, 14x11, 11x14. 1d perf. 11, 14.
- 2. Basted Mills. Thinner and tougher paper. Wmk. "N. Z." under star.

1/2d perf. 14, 14x11, 11x14.

1d perf. 14, 14x11, 11x14, 11.

3. Cowan & Co. No watermark.

1/2d and 1d perf. 14 only.

 Cowan & Co. According to Ewen's Weekly Stamp News, this firm is preparing a supply of watermarked paper.

Now, in these three papers, the Waterlow is easily distinguished by its greater thickness, the Basted Mills by its thinner substance, but more particularly by its watermark, "N. Z." over the star instead of under it, and the Cowan paper by its absence of watermark. The Cowan paper is somewhat similar to the Basted Mills paper in its substance, and the proper placing of the watermark in the forthcoming watermarked Cowan paper will probably still leave the Basted Mills paper clearly differentiated.

In all this there is nothing that need be termed perplexing. The varieties are fairly well marked, and as they are legitimate varieties arising from genuine trouble over local printing, they are of more than ordinary interest. The difficulty in all these cases of changes in paper is to get early reliable, and sufficient information, and in this connection due credit must be given to Mr. Ewen for the care which he has taken to secure early and necessary details.

Some of the varieties promise to be scarce. In all, there are fifteen varieties of paper and perforation, with a face value of only 11d. Happy the man who secures the lot at that figure. So far, I have only got six. According to a London Philatelist correspondent, the Basted Mills, perf. 11, is the rarity. But it is said that the compound perfs. will run scarce as they are already obsolete, and, according to Ewen, only small quantities were printed.

Readers of the A. J. P. who are specialising in New Zealands, will do well to snap up all these varieties quickly, and keep a sharp look out for further changes, till the colony has finally settled down to a satisfactory paper.

Ewen's Weekly for May 10th, gives an illustration of a block of the recently issued Uganda provisional on British East Africa, Half anna, with the overprint "Uganda" inverted in lower row. This block was got in payment for some old magazine, and the dear innocent who paid it away did so at face value. It is said to be unique.

Collectors will have noted long since that Paraguay has changed its method of printing from the steel plate to lithography. The specialist will do well to secure those strips which yield a margin with the printers imprint. I make a practice of doing so when possible, as not unfrequently, it is a great help in subsequent questions of distinguishing printings and issues.

London, May 24, 1902.

The Gold Coast 2d has now had a settled price put upon it of 3s. Those who held the principal stock waited until the weak ones were sold out, and then they announced their figure. Hence, you may write the catalogue price of Gold Coast, 2d. Queen's head, down at 3s. I note that a contemporary of yours announces some for sale at 25c. Buy them. Meanwhile, the King's head 2d has been received and placed on sale.

The Orange River Colony 4d on 6d which, as I have said in a previous letter, after running out of stock at Gibbons was run up to 3s 6d by other dealers, is again on sale at the old price of 9d. Those who paid 3s 6d for it must be inclined to use swear words.

Another sporting item will be the Crown overprint on the Cook Islands, 1d brown. It will be remembered that the stamps of the Cook Islands were to be all overprinted with a Crown, indicating their annexation by New Zealand. The 1d came out, but it is now stated that the printer made such a mess of the overprinting that the thing had to be abandoned. It seems that only a few were issued. It has been selling here at 6d. What it will go to now remains to be seen. Only one dealer in London appears to have had any stock, and there are none now to be had. I tried all round this week for a pair for my own collection, but failed to hear of a single copy.

The Niger Coast, 10s violet, C. A. has been another sporting item. It had become obsolete, being superseded by the Southern Nigeria set. There were few on the market, and those that turned up at auctions sold readily up to 26s. each. But one fine morning Gibbons put a lot on sale at 17s 6d. There are some good folks who very sincerely wish Gibbons was not such a law unto himself.

The new English with the King's head have now all been printed off with the exception of the 10d. That value I learned on my last visit to Somerset House, will not be ready for some time, in fact, I gathered that the plate had not yet been engraved. The 5d and £1 have not yet been placed on sale. As you have no doubt already learned, there will be no £5 stamp. I wish other countries could be persuaded to drop unnecessarily high values. Values above £1 handicap any country, from a philatelic point of view. For the great bulk of collectors, the shilling must be the end of the series. Of course in the majority of cases in the really genuine issues the high values can be fairly cheaply represented by used copies.

The flood of officials recently added to our English issues continue to be a source of perplexity to collectors, for they are simply unobtainable. The authorities are taking special pains to outwit collectors in their endeavours to secure copies. I know of collectors who have had difficulty in getting sets of stamps used even in the Departments in which they were themselves well placed employees.

We are going to discuss the Perkins Bacon issues of Chili at the next meeting of the Philatelic Society of London. Mr. Bacon has been making a special study of these interesting old stamps, and we are expecting a great deal of fresh light to be thrown on them as the result of his researches in the books of the Perkins Bacon firm, which are always courteously open to him. As a specialist in Chili I am deeply interested, for I have long held the opinion that these stamps deserve more attention from our specialists. There must be much to learn in regard to London engravers prints and local prints, and possibly retouchings of the plates.

LONDON, 24, May, 1902.

Yesterday on my way into London I read in my morning paper that Brendon & Sons' large printing establishment at Plymouth had been destroyed

the day before by fire.

As soon as I was free I made my way to Stanley Gibbons house in the Strand. There I found Mr. Phillips and learned something of the extent to which the disaster would affect the philatelic fraternity. He had received a telegram from Brendons that all the printed stock had been completely destroyed, and he had already gone through his books and reckoned up what that meant for his firm. Said he, "that means that we have lost 11,000 Imperial albums, 8,000 Century albums, and a few thousand of the smaller albums, handbooks, etc., in fact, all our printed stock of books, except those

fortunately in the hands of our London binders."

A new edition of the Catalogue was being prepared, and what has been lost of that had not been decided, for the firm has a strong room, some 15 feet square in which all valuable stock was kept, and anything there would not be likely to suffer. For the Catalogue, the firm has its complete outfit of type, which enables it to keep the Catalogue in type in forms always ready for revision. If those forms were in the strong room, all will be well with the Catalogue, if not, the work of resetting and providing new illustrations will be enormous. Anyway, it is estimated that the loss will run close to £4000, if it does not exceed that amount. And of this only about £1000 is covered by insurance, for the firm ran a minimum insurance on its floating stock of publications. But the fire has caught it with a lot of recently completed books, and the loss is, therefore, correspondingly heavy.

Whilst I was discussing the fire with Mr. Phillips, Major Evans came in, and when the *Monthly Journal* was the topic. Of course the number already in the hands of the printer was gone, and will have to be reset, but, in the general destruction, the *Journal* is a small matter. With such an able editor, and the cream of philatelic writers at his call that can and will no doubt be

quickly made good.

Then Mr. Castle dropped in, looking very serious and anxious, to know the worst and the best. The London Philatelist, being printed by the same printers, is, of course, also gone, "but," said Mr. Castle, "that is a small matter in the general loss of things that cannot be so easily made good."

Personally, I suppose I must also reckon myself somewhat of a sufferer, for a small book I had completed for the firm is wiped out. £160 worth of special plate paper for printing it had only just been delivered. Fortunately, I had, as usual, retained a complete proof, and that will now be available for resetting.

The immense stock of cliches, or stamp blocks, is believed to be safe in

the strong room, with the exception of those being used in the current

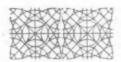
publications in course of printing.

As to the fire itself, it seems to have broken out in the lift, through which the flames quickly reached the top floors, and set the large stock of paper alight. Soon the roof collapsed and, by the latest accounts, only the two lower floors of the building are even partly saved, and they are hourly threatened by the fall of the main walls which are in a tottering condition. As the outer walls are built of stone their fall will smash the machinery into atoms, and then little will be saved except what is found in the strong room.

Messrs. Brendon & Sons are, par excellence, the philatelic printers of this country. They keep a specially trained staff of about a dozen compositors who do the philatelic work, and the manner in which they turn it out gladdens the heart of every philatelic writer who is fortunate enough to have his copy set up by them. The building was a comparatively new one, having been erected only about ten years ago. It was a large block of several floors, fitted throughout with the latest improvements and machinery, and stood alone, near the docks which accomodate the smaller steamers, inside Drake's Island. Altogether over 200 men are temporarily thrown out of employment by the fire.

There is one consolation in the business, it occurred at the beginning of the slack summer season. Had it happened in the rush of the winter season the resulting would have been very much more serious than it is despite the fact that it has destroyed a heavy stock of albums and handbooks.

How far it will affect the well known Handbooks remains to be seen. If the main stock of those is destroyed some will have to be ranked as rarities, for such expensive books to get up hardly bear reprinting.



"It is Said."

The other day a group of philatelists were talking about the Pan-American stamps with inverted centers. All the group were men of experience as stamp collectors and as business men. They were all worldly wise, and at least two of them were in positions to know much of what goes on "behind the curtain." They had all heard rumors and statements about the origin and history of the stamps; some had formed conclusions and some had not, but, by a conversational whim, each refrained from saying "I know" or "I have it on good authority", and each prefaced his remarks by the phrase "It is said". As these remarks may interest others, they are here set forth:

"It is said that for every sheet of Pan-American stamps with inverted centers known to be on the market, there is at least one other sheet up some-

body's sleeve.'

"It is said that the inverted 4 cent stamps were printed to order of a high official in the Post Office Department and were discovered at the proper time."

"It is said that all values of the series were similarly printed, at the same

time and under the same circumstances."

"It is said that the heads of the Post Office Department knew nothing of the printing of the inverted 4-cent stamps and that they were found in the

regular course of examining the sheets."

"It is said that a man in Washington, whose official head was in danger, learned of this printing and improved the opportunity to have some similar sheets printed for himself, either with the expectation of prolonging his tenure of office, through this knowledge and the possession of the stamps, or with the expectation of disposing of them for his own benefit."

"It is said that his lot includes all values of the series with centers

nverted."

"It is said that the little hole that permitted the leakage of the imperforate sheets of the 1894-95 issues may not have been thoroughly closed in

1001."

"It is said that the Post Office Department was indebted to a certain man, and, though he had generously set aside any legal claim, it was felt that he still had a moral one, and that it was hoped, through the sale of these oddities to collectors, to obtain the money needed to pay this debt."

"It is said that both half sheets of the inverted 4 cent stamps were found, thus making two hundred copies instead of one hundred, and that more exist

without the word 'Specimen' than with it."

"It is said that some sheets with inverted centres were allowed to pass into circulation in order that, at a later date, more might be placed on the market without causing comment."

"It is said"—well lots of things are said, but if all were told you, you

would not believe half of them.

There are several grains of truth hidden in this chaff. The reader is privileged to search for them and, if found, to utilize them as pleases him.

Historical Sketch of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg and its Postage Stamps.

By JULES BOUVEZ.

(Continued from page 106.)

Independently of the first printing of the first three stamps of the second issue, which appeared on September 29th, 1859, there were several others which differed from the first both in the shade and in the impression. We give them below, specifying the discoveries which have been made so far in each printing and which constitute so many varieties in each of the values issued:

and printing (January 15th, 1861), 500,000 stamps, value 10 centimes, pale blue color.

2nd printing (January 15th, 1861), 75,000 stamps, value 121/2 centimes,

3rd printing (February 25th, 1862), 45,000 stamps, value 10 centimes, pale blue.

3rd printing (February 25th, 1862), 135,000 stamps, value 12 1/2 centimes,

3rd printing (February 25th, 1862), 47,500 stamps, value 30 centimes, violet rose.

4th printing (June 30th, 1863), 520,000 stamps, value 10 centimes, dull pale blue.

5th printing (June 25th, 1864), 550,000 stamps, value 10 centimes, dark

5th printing (June 25th, 1864), 55,000 stamps, value 30 centimes, dark lilac rose.

As will be seen, therefore, there were, during the period from September 29th, 1859, to June 25th, 1864, six printings, which produced numerous varieties, that attentive study has enabled us to catalogue as follows:

- 1) 10c blue, normal impression, with the word "CENTIMES", instead of "CENTIMES".
- 2) 10c blue, blurred impression, vignette with background partly plain, the letter "E" of "LUXEMBOURG" misshapen at the top and connected by a vertical line with the frame line of the oval.
 - 3) roc pale blue, vignette with background entirely plain.
 - 4) 10c pale blue, vignette with quadrillé background, normal impression.
- 5) 10c pale blue, vignette with quadrillé background, absence of period after the "D" of the inscription surrounding the vignette.
- 6) 10c dull pale blue, normal impression, vignette with quadrillé background, word "CENTIMES" instead of "CENTIMES".
- 7) 10c dull pale blue, general impression not very clean, the letters "u" and "R" of the word "LUXEMBOURG" touching one another at the top.
- 8) 10c dull pale blue, blurred impression, vignette with plain background, the letters "m" and "B" of the word "LUXEMBOURG" touching one another at the base.
- 9) 10c dark blue, normal impression, background of vignette quadrillé, with the word "CENTIMES" instead of "CENTIMES".

10) 10c dark blue, blurred impression, vignette with plain background, word "CENHMES" instead of "CENTIMES".

11) 10c dark blue, blurred impression, vignette with plain background, the fifth letter of the word "CENTIMES" more like a "T" than an "I".

12) 121/2c pale rose, same type as No. 5.

13) 12½c pale rose, defective impression, the word "CENTIMES" showing a section of continuity at the base of the letters "n" and "T", which is manifested by three festoons under the vertical strokes of those letters.

14) 121/2c pale rose, same type as No. 7.

15) 12/2c pale rose, type of No. 13, but with five festoons instead of three under the letters "NTI" of the word "CENTIMES" and under the first vertical stroke of the letter "M".

16) 121/2c pale rose, same type as No. 15, vignette with plain back-

ground.

17) 12 1/2 deep rose, normal impression, the third stroke of the letter "M" of the word "CENTIMES" descends only as far as the central stroke of the letter "E" following it.

18) 12 1/2 deep rose, vignette with background quadrillé, the small "2",

of the fraction " 1/2", at the right, touches the vignette.

19) 121/2c deep rose, same type as No. 18, with the small figure "2",

of the fraction " 1/2", at both right and left, touching the vignette.

- 20) 30c pale lilac rose, normal impression, vignette with background quadrillé.
- 21) 30c pale lilac rose, blurred impression, figure "3" of "30" at the left presenting in the center a small upward line or stroke about 1½mm. long.
- 22) 30c violet rose, normal impression, vignette with background quad-

rillé.

23) 30c violet rose, defective impression, the letters "M" and "B" of the word "LUXEMBOURG", touch one another at the base, and the first "E" of "CENTIMES" presents the form of a "C" slanting to the right.

24) 30c violet rose, blurred impression, figure "3" at the right present-

ing the same peculiarity as in No. 21.

25) 30c deep lilac rose, normal impression, vignette with quadrillé

background.

26) 30c deep lilac rose, blurred impression, the vertical stroke of the "T" of "CENTIMES" broken in the center.

Among these varieties the rarest are those mentioned under Nos. 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21, 26. This arises from the fact the peculiarities

pointed out occur on only a few stamps of each sheet.

As to the stamps mentioned under Nos. 2, 3, 10, 11, 16, 23, 24, with a plain background, we think it well to remark that this is simply a defect produced by the wearing away of the plates, the last printings of each series presenting generally a blurred impression, both in the vignettes and in the arabesques surrounding the stamp, as well as in the inscriptions and the figures.

All those defects which produced such numerous varieties in the stamps of the second issue were the consequence of the method adopted by the Grand Ducal Government for the printing of the said values. With regard to this, we should remember that the manufacture of the plates for the engraving on steel of the first two stamps, and the reproduction of the dies necessary for their printing, had cost 10,000 fr. (\$2,000). This expense,

considered excessive by the Government, had led it to seek another and less costly method of printing which should give as good results, especially in preserving to the stamps great fineness of engraving whilst securing them against forgery. Before coming to a decision, the Government applied to various postal administrations for information. Among the details gathered, one only appeared to give favorable results and to be less expensive. This was the substitution of engraving on lithographic stone for engraving on copper. That was the system employed in a certain number of European countries, and according to an estimate of the expense, this should not be more than 7 fr. 50c. (\$1.50) for both the engraving and the printing. The proceeding consists in engraving the stamps by means of a steel needle or a diamond point on a hard highly polished lithographic stone, then transferring it onto a special paper a number of times equal to the number of stamps which the plate should contain. These reproductions are afterwards transferred to a new stone and, after touching up, this is ready for the impression.

Although this proceeding had been recognized as easier and more economical, Mr. Bernard, who was then Director of Posts of the Grand Duchy of Luxemburg, would not adopt it, but adhered to the Belgian method which

had been studied by his agents in Brussels.

The stamps of the third issue, like those of the second, were therefore produced by the typographical process, by means of galvanoplastic or electroplated plates, supplied by the house of Dresler, Frankfort on the Maine. As in the case of the stamps of 10, 12½ and 30 centimes, the printing of these new values was ordered of the firm of Naumann, at Frankfort on the Maine, who sent to Luxemburg the first supply on October 8th, 1859.

This third issue was the subject of the following notice, inserted on

October 20th, 1859, in the Administrative Memorial:

" NOTICE. - POSTS. - POSTAGE STAMPS.

"In the Journal of Luxemburg, in the number of September 29th last, I announced that the Postal Administration would in future sell for the prepayment of letters postage stamps of the value of 30 centimes, printed in lilac and bearing the coat of arms of the Grand Duchy with the words: 'G. D. DE LUXEMBOURG' above, and below the indication of the value in centimes.

"I also stated at the same time that by degrees, as the present supply of postage stamps of 10 centimes and one silbergroschen, with the portrait of the Grand Duke, became exhausted, they would be replaced by stamps of the same form and the same design as those of 30 centimes, and printed, those of 10 centimes in blue, and those of 12½ centimes (1 silbergroschen) in rose.

"To day I make it known that stamps for the prepayment of letters, of the values of 25 centimes (2 silbergroschen), 37½ centimes (3 silbergroschen), and 40 centimes can also be obtained from the postal administration. These stamps are prepared after the same model as those of 30 centimes and the new stamps of 10 and 12½ centimes.

"They differ only in the figure of value and in the color of the printing, which is brown for those of 25 centimes, green for those of 37½, and orange

yellow for those of 40."

As in the preceding issue, these stamps were printed in sheets of 100; each stamp measured 18 mm. in width by 21½ mm. in height. The space between the stamps varied from 1½ mm. to 1½ mm. in a horizontal direction and from ¾ mm. to 1½ mm. in a vertical direction. These dimensions will explain the rarity of stamps of this issue with good margins, for good margins on all sides of a stamp could only be obtained at the expense of four

other stamps, when in the body of the sheet, or of three others when on the edge of the sheet.

Of the first two stamps (25 and 37 1/2c) there were two very distinct

printings, and of the third (40c.) three printings.

We enumerate them below, with indications of the shades and quantities issued:

1) Printing of October 12th, 1859, 525 sheets, 52,500 stamps of 25 centimes, light brown;

2) Printing of October 12th, 1859, 900 sheets, 90,000 stamps of 371/2

centimes, green;

3) Printing of October 12th, 1859, 630 sheets, 63,000 stamps of 40 cen-

times, orange yellow;

4) Printing of December 15th, 1859, 500 sheets, 50,000 stamps of 25 centimes, dark brown;

5) Printing of December 15th, 1859, 1150 sheets, 115,000 stamps of 37½ centimes, green;

6) Printing of December 15th, 1859, 885 sheets, 88,500 stamps of 40

centimes, red orange;

7) Printing of February 20th, 1862, 1600 sheets, 160,000 stamps of 40 centimes, yellow.

The values of this third issue seem to have been printed with more care than those of the preceding issue. However, certain varieties are found, which we give below:

1) 25c light brown, normal impression, vignette with background entirely quadrillé.

2) 25c light brown, vignette with background quadrillé on the right

hand side and plain on the left hand side.

3) 25c light brown, vignette with background entirely plain.

4) 25c light brown, with the figure "2" at the left touching at its bas the shading of the vignette which encloses it.

25c dark brown, vignette with plain background, normal impression.
 25c dark brown, vignette with background quadrillé, normal impression.

7) 25c dark brown, vignette with background quadrillé, escutcheons

very much blurred.

8) 25c dark brown, vignette with background quadrillé, with the first stroke of the letter "M" of the word "CENTIMES" appearing only in the lower part for a length of 3/mm.

9) 37 1/2c green, normal impression, vignette with quadrillé back-

ground.

10) 37½c green, normal impression, vignette with plain background.
11) 37½c green, like No. 9, printed "CENTINES" instead of "CENTINES"

TIMES".
12) 37½c green, like No. 9, with seven festoons under the letters

"N T I M" of the word "CENTIMES".

13) 40c orange yellow, normal impression, vignette with background quadrilé.

14) 40c orange yellow, normal impression, vignette with background plain.

15) 40c red orange, normal impression, vignette with background quadrillé.

16) 40c red orange, normal impression, vignette with background plain.

17) 40c yellow, normal impression, vignette with background quadrillé.

18) 40c yellow, defective impression.

(To be continued.)

The Little Boy who Wrote to the Czar.

Years ago there went the rounds of the philatelic press a story of a little boy who wrote a letter to the Czar of Russia, asking him for some Russian stamps, and was rewarded by a gracious reply and a present of a wonderful collection of stamps. We read it, said "clever," and forgot all about it.

Later on the story was revived, but we had grown wiser-or thought we had—and had elevated our pastime into a science. We began to have doubts about the pretty little story,-it would do very well for children, but you could hardly expect us to take much stock in such tales. Then smart writers began to poke fun at it, and the fate of the "Little Willie" story was sealed. It could not stand ridicule.

Yet it was a good story and quite true after all. In a recent visit to some of the Western cities I learned the facts of the case. The boy who wrote the letter (he was eight years old at the time) is to-day a freshman at Cornell University. His parents live in Pittsburg and, have in their possession the stamps and the letter which accompanied them. The story is as follows:

In the year 1895 the family was residing in Toranto, Canada. One day there arrived in the mail a bulky envelope addressed to Master Band sealed with a large seal bearing the Russian eagle.

"Oh," said Master B-, "the Czar must have answered my letter." "What," said a member of the family, "do you mean to say that you have been writing to the Czar?"

"Yes; I heard he was a stamp collector, and I thought he might like

some Canadian stamps, so I sent him a lot."

"But you didn't say anything about this to any of us."

"No, that is just what I told the Czar. I said, 'Nobody knows I am writing to you but old Mary; she's Granny's cook."

"Well, I hope you didn't ask the Czar for stamps?" "No, I didn't ask him for any, but down at the bottom of the letter I

said, 'P. S .- If you have any duplicates, I'd like to have some." Within the envelope addressed to Master B- was the following letter:

AMBASSADE, IMPERIALE

DE RUSSIE.

To. Master B-

15 St. Thomas St., South Hamilton, Ontario,

By order of the Emperor, the Imperial Russian Embassy in London has the honor to inform you that His Imperial Majesty has been graciously

pleased not only to accept a collection of stamps sent by you, but to cause a

collection of Russian stamps to be transmitted to you in return.

In forwarding the parcel addressed to you, the Imperial Russian Embassy begs to request you to send your receipt for the same to the Secretary of the Russian Embassy in London.

(Signed) The First Secretary of the Embassy,

London, 15th July, 1895.

There were enclosed three sets of the Russian stamps then current, ranging in value from one kopec to seven rubles, also a quantity of envelopes, wrappers and postal cards. There was also enclosed a receipt, which gave a detailed list of the stamps and stationery. This was written in Russian and, being somewhat of a curiosity, was retained, and another receipt, written in English, sent in its stead.

The family of the young man have carefully preserved the letter and its contents as an interesting relic of his childhood's days.

J. N. L.

Reichespost and Deutsches Reich.

By E. DOEBLIN.

At the request of my friend, Mr. John N. Luff, I shall report in a few words upon the newly discovered types and errors appearing in the stamps

of the German Empire, of the issues of 1900 and 1902.

I. Mr. E. Guendel discovered that in the 2 pfennig gray of the numeral issue of 1900 an error has occurred, viz, the adhesion of some small foreign substance to the plate has changed the letter "c" to "c," so that the word "REICHSPOST" now reads "REIGHSPOST." This faulty type appears in dif-

ferent places on different sheets.

II. The new (1902) issue brought a special surprise to the philatelic fraternity, a surprise which has created a sensation reaching beyond our circle and even necessitating interference by the German Government. In the sheet of the 3 pfennig brown stamp appears on number 45, sometimes on number 99, counted from the upper left corner, an error, which consists in the fact that the first "E" of the inscription "DEUTSCHES REICH" has been changed to an "F," the words therefore reading "DFUTSCHES REICH." An official report on this error explains that on one plate, at the forty-fifth stamp, the lower line of the first "E" was split. This small defect was not noticed and, in the course of printing, the lower part of the split line broke off, while the upper part is still discernible as a very fine hairline. There are, therefore, really two errors in existence, one in the printing of January 6th-11th, consisting of the split double line, and another in the printing which was made from January 13th to the end of February, which caused the inscription to read "DFUTSCHES REICH". Of the first error only a few specimens are in existence. Of the second 280,000 sheets have been printed, but all were not sold, as the Government stopped the sale of the errors.





III. I will turn to another matter which is surely worthy of attention and concerns a recognized type of the 1900 5 marks stamp—out of circulation since March 31st—of which there exist two entirely different, original designs. For a better understanding, I show in the above sketch the most conspicuous differences of the two types. No. 1 is the earlier, and the distinguishing marks are as follows: The figure "5" in the two corner shields is thinner, the flags is curved and ends in a sharp point, the "M" (Mark) is tall and slender. The inscription in the lower band is compact, which can be seen in the words "EIN VOLK." The "o" in "GOTT" is round and smaller than the rest of the letters.

No. 2. The curved white line forming the body of the figure "5" is broader, the flag is short and thick, the inscription in the lower label is slender, and the "0" in "GOTT" is of the same size as the rest of the let-

ters.





IV. At the conclusion of my report let me mention a puzzle picture. The search for the "f" in "dfutsches" is evidently responsible for the discovery of a peculiarity in the picture of Germania, which millions of eyes have overlooked every day in the year. On every stamp with the Germania design there appears, on the lower right quarter of the breast shield, a large "15," formed by the shading lines. Whoever looks carefully will see it in every uncancelled stamp. It is evidently more than pure accident—if not a designed engraver's mark, at least an engraver's joke and a very good one. It is half as large as the denomination figure, in full color, and undiscovered for over two years. In the 1900 "REICHSPOST" stamps, the figure appears usually with a connecting stroke between the curve and the upper horizontal stroke of the figure. It was supposed at first that this connecting stroke appeared generally and was changed in the new issues, but the designs in the old issues are just as clean as in the new ones. The "15" with and without the stroke appears in both issues.

Henry G. Mandel.

Died May 29, 1902.

There are some men whose passing away leaves the world poorer. Such

a man has just been taken from us.

His life was marked by manliness, unswerving friendship and true charity. Perhaps he did not make friends easily, but those he made held fast to him, even as his own friendship remained steadfast through evil report and good report. Even under great provocation, he ever refrained from speaking harshly of others. His motto appears to have been "With malice

toward none, with charity for all."

For many years Mr. Mandel held an important position in the American Bank Note Co. He possessed a thorough and unusual knowledge of engraving, lithography, printing, photography, paper, colors, machinery and all the mechanical sides of the business of making bank notes and postage stamps. Having these gifts and being interested in the collection of stamps, he was able to give much useful information and assistance to others who were studying and writing about stamps. We owe to him our knowledge of a number of interesting varieties, especially in the stamps of the United States. He was also able to obtain much valuable historical and statistical information concerning the stamps of this country. A great deal of this information has appeared in the columns of the American Journal of Philately.

It is quite natural that his interest as a stamp collector would be largely directed toward those countries whose stamps had been produced, either wholly or in part, by the American Bank Note Co. and the companies which were united to form it. He had very good collections of the stamps of British North America, Hawaii, Brazil and several other countries in South America and the West Indies. His collection of the stamps of the United States was of unusual merit and completeness and contained many fine and scarce things. But his collection of United States proofs and essays far outshone all his other philatelic holdings. In it can be traced the history of all United States postal and fiscal issues; every stage of manufacture is shown, from the initial sketches of the designs to the finished product. It contains proofs in every stage of the work, trials of colors, of paper, of devices to prevent the cleaning of stamps, safeguards against counterfeiting, rejected designs and many similar things. The quantity and variety are almost be-wildering and very many of the specimens are unique. It is to be hoped that the collection will be preserved intact as a monument to its founder. Because of its historical interest, its proper place would seem to be among the Government archives, but, as public collections are apt to be neglected, it might be preferable that this unique accumulation should pass into the hands of some philatelist who will appreciate it and preserve it

We shall miss him as a good philatelist, a firm friend and a true man.



UNITED STATES.—Mr. H. F. Colman has shown us some interesting things in the nature of a special printing of the 2 cents red brown of 1883.

The impression is taken from a plate of 200 stamps, which has been perforated but not cut apart between the two panes. As a result, the sheet originally contained ten horizontal pairs imperforate between, though not all of these came into the possession of Mr. Colman. The plate had the usual imprint, "American Bank Note Company," at the middle of the top of each pane, and midway between these imprints was engraved in large Roman capitals "STEAMER AMERICAN BANK NOTE CO." "Steamer," of course, means steam press. This would appear to have been a special printing made on the steam press. Whether or not it is the special printing which was delivered to the Post Office Department for sale to collectors on December 5th, 1883, we are unable to say, as little or no information is obtainable as to the antecedents of the sheet, beyond the fact that it was purchased at the P. O. Department in Washington. The stamps are somewhat lighter in color than the ordinary variety and are very carefully printed; the gum is yellowish, the perforation the regulation 12.

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ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.—L'Echo de la Timbrologie is authority for the statement that the new official stamps have been withdrawn from use. Apparently they were too good and beautiful to last.

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AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH.—Rumors are affoat to the effect that, as Commonwealth stamps may not be issued for four years, some of the State Post Offices intend shortly issuing new King's head types. Up to the present, however, we cannot get this confirmed. Such can only be done with the consent of the Federal P. M. G. It was thought at one time that the Federal Government would issue a stamp of some kind about the date of the Coronation; if they intend to do so, they are keeping it very dark.—Australian Journal of Philately.

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AUSTRIA.—OFFICES IN THE LEVANT.—Herewith we show the types of the surcharges on the current unpaid letter stamps.

10 PARA

1 PIASTER

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BAHAMAS,-The Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste announces certain

articles of stationery bearing the head of King Edward VII as about to appear: an envelope of 2½p, a registration envelope of 2p and postal cards of ½ and 1p.

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BENADIR.—We illustrate the new stamps which were chronicled in our April number,





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BOLIVIA.—We find we have failed to illustrate certain recent issues, for which we herewith made amends:









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COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC.—Mr. F. Antenor Mejia has sent us a copy of the Diario Oficial, from which we translate the following decree:

"Decree No. 1463 of 1901 (27th December), by which is re-established the circulation of various kinds of postage stamps

The Vice-President of the Republic, charged with executive power, in the employment of his legal authority, and

CONSIDERING:

That the supply of various postal issues in charge of the General Administration of Posts and Telegraphs is almost exhausted;

That in the said office exists a large number of various old issues, retired from circulation by virtue of the Decree No. 1960 of 4th July, 1892;

That the contract made with Messrs. Dimitrio Parades for the manufacture of postal supplies has been obsolete for some time;

That there is an insurmountable difficulty, caused by the war, for the prompt and good manufacture of a new issue of postal supplies;

That it is necessary to find some means to facilitate the replacing, promptly and duly, of the supply of these varieties, to do away with the deficit that their lack would occasion in the income of the post office.

DECREES :

Article 1. The circulation of postal varieties of old issues, of which the

use was prohibited by Decree No. 1960 of the 4th July, 1892, is re-established, and, in consequence, they will be overprinted, to prevent fraud and as a sign of replacement in use, with the date of the next year, with inks of different

colors from those of the stamps.

Article 2. There shall be created a special commission of three persons, ad honorem, which the Director General of Posts and Telegraphs will designate, in order that they may receive the postal varieties mentioned, with detail of their classes and values, to the end that the said employee may place them at the disposal of the Director of the National Lithographic Establishment, to carry out the provisions of the preceding article.

The Director of the said lithographic establishment will have the term of thirty days, after the date on which he shall receive them, to return the said varieties to the General Direction of Posts and Telegraphs, with the

mark of rehabilitation.

Issue of 1893. 5c.

It is communicated and published. Given in Bogota, 27th December, 1901.

JOSE MANUEL MAROQUIN.

The Minister of the Government, .

GUILLERMO QUINTERO C."

It is reported that the stamps replaced in circulation will be as follows: Issue of 1886. 1, 2, 5, 10, 20c, 20c retouched, 50c, 1, 5 and 10 pesos. Too Late stamp. 2½c.

Registration stamp. 10c
Issue of 1890. 1, 2, 5, 10 and 20c.

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CRETE.—The *Philatelic Record* has received the 50 lepta dull lilac with the black surcharge inverted at the top of the stamp.

The same journal reports an error in the sheets of 25 lepta with the large "PROSORINON" surcharge,—the forty-ninth stamp in the sheet has the letter "p" inverted.

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FRENCH OFFICES IN CHINA.—Amoy.—The Montreal Philatelist announces that a series of stamps, similar to those in use in Canton and Hoi-Hao, is about to appear.

Hoi-Hao. - Mr. C. A. Howes writes us :

"You may like to note in the A. J. P. that the Chinese surcharge on the new Hoihow (the English spelling) stamps is 'Kiung-chow', the largest city of the island of Hainan and the real Treaty Port, Hoihow being a smaller coast town serving as the port of Kiung-chow."

We illustrate the surcharge used for the stamps of this office:

HOI HAQ 州瓊

GERMANY.—Der Philatelist reports a second error in the current 3pf stamp, the word "DEUTSCHES" being spelled "DEUTSSES".

It is said that the 2 marks stamp has appeared with the words "DEUTSCHES REICH" in Roman capitals, instead of Gothic.

Alsace and Lorraine.-Mr. S. Farges of Lyons, has seen a curiosity, of which he gives the following account: - "Everybody knows that the stamps of Alsace are printed on paper with a network of which the curves are downwards in the ordinary type and upwards in the scarcer type known as 'inverted net.' The newly discovered variety consists of a 20 centimes with a double network (I) BLUE net inverted, (II) PALE YELLOW net in normal position. The superposition of the two networks gives the whole stamp a greenish tint which strikes the eye at once. I look on it as a printing of the 20 centimes made by mistake on paper prepared for the 10 centimes stamp, having already received the network of that value; or it may, perhaps, be a printing on paper that has been used for printer's trial-impressions of the 10 centime network. There can be no possible doubt as to the authenticity of the variety in question. The two specimens that have passed through my hands come from the correspondence of a Lyons house of business (then in the Cours de Brosses and now in the Cours Gambetta). Both are on original letters. One is postmarked "Saar-Union 29. 9. 1871" and the other "Buckenheim 1. 8. 1871". - Alfred Smith & Son's Monthly Circular.

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GREECE.—We show the type of the new unpaid letter stamp :



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HAWAII.—Mr. Charles Hustace has shown us a vertical strip of three of the 2 cents, numeral issue, printed in black on grayish paper. The strip contains the varieties Nos. 5, 7 and 9 in plate IIc, as described by Mr. J. N. Luff, in the article on Hawaiian numerals which we published in the Journal for August last, and confirms exactly the conclusions reached by Mr. Luff in arranging that plate.

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NEW CALEDONIA.—In a supply of the new provisional stamps we have

found a few minor varieties:

In the 5c on 30c one of the figures in each sheet has part of the top of the "5" broken off, making it look shorter than usual. This same variety is also found in the 15c on 40c as well as a further variety, consisting of a figure "1" much shorter than usual. Mr. William Thorne tells us that he has the normal types and the varieties inverted.

We illustrate the normal varieties:





NICARAGUA.—Mr. A. Calman has shown us a horizontal pair of the 10 centavos of 1899, imperforate between.

We have found in our stock the 2 centavos Postage Due stamp of 1900, with the surcharge "1901-CORREOS" printed twice.

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NORTH BORNEO.—Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Limited, have purchased a sheet of the 25c, surcharged "BRITISH PROTECTORATE", half the sheet having the surcharge inverted. The overprint was apparently set in blocks of twenty-five and thus the sheet contains five tête bêche pairs, twenty stamps with the surcharge in the normal position and twenty others with it inverted.

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Queensland.—We quote from the Australian Journal of Philately:

"A gentleman from Brisbane, who paid us a visit recently, very kindly gave us the following reliable information. There is no talk of any changes in Queensland postage stamps. Since the 5th March railway stamps have been printed on paper having a 'locomotive' watermark. The old handperforating machine was sent to British New Guinea on the 17th October last; the other 9½ machine was sent to another department and will never again be used for postage stamps. The first 500 sheets of the current ½ stamp were printed on De la Rue paper, which was of a finer quality than that used subsequently, and the officials of the Queensland stamp printing branch believe that the stamps turned out by them are equal, if not superior to any others in Australia."

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REUNION.—Herewith we illustrate the recent provisional stamps:



PIB (

\$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$

Russia.—The Monthly Journal is informed of the discovery of a copy of the 10 kopecs of 1865 with center inverted. The 10k of 1875 is catalogued in this condition by Moens, but the earlier stamp has not previously been reported.

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SALVADOR.—Mr. E. P. Reynolds informs us that he has a copy of the 3 centavos orange Due stamp, surcharged with "FRANQUEO OFICIAL" in oval, the wheel device, and punched with twelve small holes. This should be inserted between Nos. 608 and 609 in our catalogue.

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Surinam.—Mr. E B. Power has shown us the 10c on 30c red brown, of the provisional issue of 1898, with double surcharge.

We show the design of the new 1/2 cent stamp:



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UGANDA.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News illustrates part of a pane of the half anna of the recent provisional issue, showing the lower row of stamps with the surcharge inverted at the bottom. Apparently the surcharging was done one row at a time and this sheet was inadvertently put into the press wrong side up. On the mistake being discovered, it was reversed and the remainder of the sheet surcharged in the correct position.

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WURTEMBURG.—Collectors are warned against purchasing unused 2 mark stamps on the basis of catalogue prices. The 2 mark value was first issued in 1875, and has of course now been superseded by ordinary German stamps. Never during its lifetime of 27 years has it been sold to the public, with the result that the 2mk. yellow is catalogued £8 unused, the 2mk., red £7 100, and the 2mk. orange and black 155. to 255. Now that Wurtemburg stamps are obsolete, however, the restriction on the sale of this particular value has been removed, and it can be bought at Stuttgart for face value. No doubt many collectors will think they have got a bargain when it is offered to them at ½3 or ½4 catalogue price, but readers of E. W. S. N. will have no excuse if they allow themselves to be caught napping.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News.





UNITED STATES.—We have recently purchased a fine copy of a hitherto uncatalogued Local stamp. This is on the original cover and was found among a lot of old correspondence by the gentleman from whom we purchased it. The design is not printed, but embossed, on colored paper; it consists of an upright doublelined oval, with the inscription "BURY'S CITY POST" in the upper part and "ONE CENT" in the lower. The center is occupied by a five-pointed star.

Local stamp.



Imperforate.

ABYSSINIA.—The stamps with the surcharge "ETHIOPIE" have been withdrawn and replaced by a new series, bearing the surcharge "POSTA" in amharique characters.

Adhesive stamps. Pérforated. Black (?) surcharge.

1/2 g green 1/2 g salmon 1 g blue

2g dark brown

4g lilac brown 8g lilac 16g black BARBADOS.—The Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung reports an envelope and a wrapper with stamps of the Jubilee design.

Envelope.

White paper.
Size 135x83mm.
2p ultramarine and red
Wrapper.

Buff paper.
Size 126x300mm.
½p red brown

BRITISH GUIANA.—A new Registration envelope has been issued in this colony, the Queen's Head design being replaced by the Ship type, similar to that employed for the ordinary envelopes. The envelope is of size G, and the inscriptions are "BRITISH GUIANA—REGISTRATION FEE—FOUR CENTS."

Registration envelope. Size 151x95 mm. 4c blue

COLOMBIAN REPUBLIC—Boyaca
—We find we have failed to chronicle
a provisional issue for this state which
appeared some months ago. The
design has a portrait facing to the left,
with the word "CORREOS" above and
"COLOMBIA—BOYACA" and value below. The stamp first appeared on
white paper, perforated, and it is now
reported as printed on bluish paper,
both perforated and imperforate.

Adhesive stamps. Perforated.

White paper.
5c blue green
Bluish paper.
5c blue green
Imperforate.
Bluish paper.
5c blue green

Cartagona.—The Monthly Journal has been shown a block of eight of the 10 centavos Registration stamp of the Colombian Republic, surcharged diagonally with a large letter "R" and the word "CARTAGENA", in violet. There is an "R" on each stamp, but the name falls across two or more stamps.

Registration stamp.
Provisional issue.
Violet surcharge.
10c brown on rose

Panama.—We have seen the current roc brown-red Registration stamp with a new value "20", surcharged in blue over the old figures, at each end of the word "CENTAVOS".

L'Echo de la Timbrologie chronicles the current 10 centavos stamp surcharged "A. R." in oval.

Registration stamp.
Provisional issue.
Blue surcharge.
20c on 10c brown-red

Return registration stamp. Provisional issue. Red surcharge.

toc yellow

Tolima.—Mr. J. C. Morgenthau has shown us the 10 centavos green of the 1888-1900 issue, perforated 12. This value with this perforation has not hitherto been chronicled, so far as we are aware.

Adhesive stamp.
Perforated 12.
10c green

DANISH WEST INDIES. - Several new varieties are reported in the recent surcharges. We have seen a sheet of the second printing of the 2c on 3c with the surcharge in green. We are informed by Mr. F. P. Brown that he has obtained a sheet of the same value surcharged on the 3c stamp of the early printing, with perforation 131/2. Only three or four sheets with this perforation were surcharged. We also hear of a few copiesof the 2c on 3c, but dated "1901" instead of "1902". It is claimed that the first printing was ordered on December 10th, 1901, and the printer, not knowing that the stamps were not to be sold until January 1st, 1902, made two sample sheets with the earlier date. The date was ordered to be changed, but the two sheets with the "1901" surcharge were put into stock and sold. Mr. Brown also shows us the 1c green and red-violet. perf. 131/2 and surcharged in three lines "10-CENTS-1895." This is probably only an essay.

Adhesive stamps.
Green surcharge.
Perforated 13x12½.
2c on 3c blue and lake
Variety: Dated "1901".
Black surcharge.
2c on 3c blue and lake
Black surcharge.
Perforated 13½.
2c on 3c gray-blue and carmine-red

FERNANDO PO.—The Monthly Circular reports a number of new postal cards of the same design as the 1899 issue, with the date altered to 1900 and the colors changed.

Postal cards.
Size 116x99mm.
5m dark blue on buff
5x5m " " " "
1c dark brown on buff

2c carmine on buff 2x2c "" "" 3c dark green on buff 3x3c "" " " FIJI.—Ewen's Weekly Stamp News reports that a new perforating machine has been brought into use for the stamps of these islands. The machine perforates 11½ and it has been employed in conjunction with the old machine perforating 11.

Adhesive stamps.

Perf. 11x111/2.

½p slate

rp lilac rose

21/2p red brown

4p red violet

6p rose

FRANCE.—Mr. C. With has shown us the new 30 centimes, which differs from the same value in the preceding issue in having the denomination placed in a shield, surrounded with laurel branches. The word "POSTES" is not now placed directly above the value, but occupies a colorless tablet in the upper part of the frame. Mr. E. B. Power has shown us the companion 20 centimes stamp.

Adhesive stamps.

Perforated. 20c brown violet 30c lilac

FRENCH OFFICES IN CHINA.— Canton.—The current envelopes of 5, 15 and 25 centimes have been surcharged with the word "CANTON" and Chinese characters.

Envelopes.

Red surcharge. 5c yellow green 15c blue on greenish 25c black on rose

FRENCH OFFICES IN ZANZIBAR

The 50c of France, type I, has been surcharged for use here.

Adhesive stamp.
Blue surcharge.
5a on 5oc rose, type I

GAMBIA.—In European journals we find chronicled a long list of stamps and an envelope of the King's head design for this colony. We assume that many of these are "Specimen" stamps which have not yet been placed in issue.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A. Perforated 14.

½p green

2p orange and violet

2 1/2p blue

3p red violet and ultramarine

4p brown and ultramarine

6p olive and rose

1sh blue lilac and green

2sh gray black and orange

Envelope.

Size 134x84mm.
2p dark blue

GOLD COAST.—A full set of new stamps is also reported for this colony, which, like some others, appear to be known only as "Specimens", as yet.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

1/2 p lilac and green

ip lilac and rose

2p lilac and orange

21/2 p lilac and blue

3p lilac and ochre

6p lilac and violet

ish green and black

2sh green and rose

5sh green and lilac

rosh green and brown

20sh lilac and black on red

GREAT BRITAIN.—The 5 pence of the new series has appeared both in the regular issue and with the surcharge "GOVT. PARCELS". In our chronicle for April we reported, by a typographical error, the £5 green; this should have read "£1". We illustrate several values of the new issue:











Adhesive stamp.

Watermarked Crown.

Perforated 14.
5p lilac and ultramarine

Official stamp.

Surcharged in black "GOVT PAR-CELS".

Watermarked Crown.
Perforated 14.
5p lilac and ultramarine

GRENADA.—Various of our European contemporaries report that the full set of the new King's Head stamps, as well as two postal cards, have arrived in the colony, though they do not appear to have yet been placed in use. The 2, 6p and 5sh have the value on a lined ground, the other stamps have it on a plain ground.

Adhesive stamps.

Watermarked Crown and C. A. Perforated 14.

⅓p lilac and green

Ip lilac and carmine

2p lilac and brown

2½p lilac and blue

3p lilac and ochre 6p lilac and green

1sh green and ochre

2sh green and blue 5sh green and carmine

10sh green and lilac

Postal cards.

½p green on buff, size 121x75 mm. ip carmine on buff, size 140x89 mm.

**ECELAND.—Messrs. Kirkpatrick & Pemberton have shown us the 10 aur official stamp of the current type perforated 12½.

Official stamp.
Perforated 12½.
102 ultramarine

LIBERIA.—In our Journal for April we reported two official stamps, surcharged "ORDINARY" and used for payment of regular postage. It appears that a number of other values of the official set have been treated in the same manner. Of some only a very small number were surcharged, 240 stamps of \$1 being thus treated and only 12 of the \$2 and \$5.

Adhesive stamps. Provisional issue. Black surcharge.

ic green

5c blue and black

10c yellow and blue

15c slate

20c vermilion

25c yellow green 30c steel blue

50c red brown and black

\$1 blue and black \$2 brown on yellow

\$5 carmine and black

MAURITIUS .- We quote from Ewen's Weekly Stamp News :

"For some years stamps of 1, 21/2 and 5 rupees have been catalogued, although their actual issue has never been made. We are officially informed that this will soon take place. As the high values are inscribed 'Postage and Revenue,' the low values, to be made uniform, will be surcharged with this inscription. The date of issue has not yet been fixed, but 'specimen' copies of the rupee values have been distributed to the Postal Union countries. In addition stamps of 5, 8, 12, 25 and 50 cents in the ordinary Arms type have been printed and will shortly be issued, the Queen's Head 25 and 50c having been already withdrawn. It is not quite clear whether any of the new cents values will be issued without overprint or whether all will be surcharged."

Adhesive stamps.

. Watermarked Crown and C. A.

Perforated 14.

5c violet gray and lilac on chamois 8c sea green and black on chamois 12c gray black and carmine

25c sea green and carmine on pale

50c gray green and dark green on yellow

ir dark gray and carmine

2r 50c sea green and black on sky blue 5r brown and carmine on red

NIUE ISLAND .- In the JOURNAL for March we reported the current penny of New Zealand, with the surcharge "NIUE", for use in this island. We now learn from the Timbrophile Belge that two other values have been issued.

Adhesive stamps. Provisional issue. Black surcharge.

1/2p green 2 1/2 p blue

NYASSA.—Two uncatalogued postal cards are reported by Messrs. Senf.

They are the Mozambique cards of 1885, 20 and 30 reis, with head of the King, overprinted "NYASSA" in black.

Postal cards. Black surcharge. 201 rose 3or green

OBOOK.-L' Echo de la Timbrologie reports three more provisionals for this country, made by surcharging the stamps of 25 and 50 francs with new values.

Adhesive stamps.

Black surcharge. 5c on 25fr brown and blue 66 ... 66 25c on 25fr 50c on 50fr brown violet and green

PERSIA.—We have seen the 10ch blue on green with a new surcharge, " 5 CHAHIS" and Persian characters. We have also seen several additional values of the typeset stamps. These latter appear to be printed in blocks of four.

Mr. C. Witt has shown us an envelope bearing a copy of the typeset I chahi, which appears to have been roughly pin perforated between the stamps, and, instead of the red surcharge with the lion, has the black surcharge "PROVISOIRE", etc. The Philatelis Record chronicles the 12 chahis with the latter surcharge but apparently imperforate.

Adhesive stamps. Provisional issue.

Surcharged in violet



5sch on 1och blue on green Provisional issue.

Typeset. Red surcharge.



Imperforate. burelé buff ich gray, 2ch brown 3ch green 5ch red roch olive bistre " 12ch ultramarine, burelé buff ik violet. burelé blue 2k olive green " 66 rok dark blue sok red Black surcharge. 12ch ultramarine Pin perforate. Black surcharge. 1ch gray, burelé buff

PERU. — The Timbrophile Belge reports the current 10 soles stamp with the surcharge "DEFICIT—CINCO CENTAVOS", in two lines.

Unpaid letter stamp.
Provisional issue.
Black surcharge.
5c on 10s blue green

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.—The 3oc unpaid letter stamp was reported as prepared for issue sometime last year, but it appears that it has only recently been put on sale.

Unpaid letter stamp. Black surcharge.

Watermarked U. S. P. S. 30c claret

SIERRA LEONE.—An envelope with the King's head has been issued in this colony. The stamp is an upright rectangle, with "SIERRA LEONE" at top and "ONE PENNY" at bottom, in straight labels.

Envelope.
Size 140x78.
White laid paper.
1p carmine

SOMALICOAST.—The Timbrophile Belge illustrates two new provisional stamps. The first is the 40c of Somali Coast, surcharged "5 CENTIMES"; and the second, the triangular 10fr stamp of Obock, surcharged in three lines "10—CENTIMES—DJIBOUTI".

Adhesive stamps,
Provisional issue.
Black surcharge.
5c on 4oc orange and blue
10c on 10fr orange and red violet

STRAITS SETTLEMENTS.—We have received two stamps of the new King's head design inscribed with the name of the colony above and value at the bottom. The lower denomination has the value on a lined ground and the higher one on a plain tablet.

Adhesive stamps.

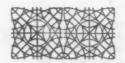
Watermarked Crown and C. A.
Perforated 14.
3c violet and orange
8c violet on blue

Changes in Catalogue Prices.

A DASH (-) INDICATES THAT A PRICE HAS BEEN DROPPED.

	τ	JNITED ST	ATES.	1	48	1881-	86 4c	5	5
163	1873	15C	15.00		106	1884-	85 10C 15C	8	8
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Porto Rico. South Australia. 14 1877 10C 1.50 29 1880 1/4 C 3.00 51 1881 5C 1.00 52 " 8C 1.50 118 1sh 50-119 2sh 1.00 Southern Nigeria. ST. HELENA. 20 1864-68 5sh 2.00 8 1901 5sh 2.00 9 " 10sh 4.00 ST. LUCIA. TRINIDAD. 37 1886-89 5sh 2.00 38 " 10sh 4.00 81 1896 5sh 250 SIERRA LEONE. 45 1896-97 5sh 2.00 46 "£1 8.00 VICTORIA. 205 1901 5sh 2.00



Staten Island Philatelic Society.

216th meeting held May 20th, 1902, at Ohliger's Hotel, 136 Canal Street, Stapleton, S. I., N. Y., opened by the President Mr. J. W. Sittig. Other members present: Messrs. Henry Clotz, Oscar Dejonge, E. Angell, A. Lienhardt, A. Richter, Hugo Kessler, R. H. Benary, Edgar R. Carter and J. L. Brown.

Mr. E. Angell acted as Secretary pro tempore in absence of the Secretary.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and accepted.

The Executive Committee reported favorably upon the nomination of Mr. Eustace B. Power, 167 Broadway, New York City, and he was unanimously elected a regular member of the Society.

The Treasurer's report showing a comfortable balance in the Treasury

was accepted with thanks.

The Secretary reported that on May 1st, 1901, there were 59 members on the rolls. During the year 11 members resigned and were dropped from the rolls, and 5 new members added to the list, making a total of 53 members on the list, viz: Active 21; Corresponding 25; Honorary 7. Number of meetings held during the year 6, of which one was held in the rooms of the Philatelic Society, Borough of Manhattan. Report accepted with thanks.

The Exchange Manager reported as follows: In circulation during the past year 151 books, amount of sales \$1,058.65, showing good work in this department, the largest number of sales made for the last few years. A vote

of thanks was tendered to him for his big success.

The Librarian reports that there are now 272 bound volumes and a large number of unbound volumes of philatelic literature. The stamp collections have been increased, also many new and interesting counterfeits have been added to the counterfeit collection. There are still some vacant spaces in the photograph album. All members are requested to contribute liberally to the Library and Stamp and Counterfeit Collections, so as to make a better showing at the end of the coming year. Report accepted with thanks.

A letter from Mr. Bernichon thanking the members for their sympathy

on account of the decease of his wife was read.

Different circulars, philatelic papers, etc., were received for the Society

with thanks.

Mr. Angell moved that the members and their families hold an outing this Summer, seconded and carried. Committee appointed to report at next meeting, Messrs. Benary and Angell.

The present board of officers were unanimously re-elected for the coming

year and a vote of thanks tendered to them for their services.

The Exchange Manager showed a lot of exquisite stamps and made lively sales as usual, he recommends that members bring their duplicates to the meetings so that a lively and interesting exchange may be inaugurated.

Next meeting June 17th, 1902.

EUGENE ANGELL, Secretary pro tem.

The Collectors Club.

351 FOURTH AVENUE.

NEW YORK.

The Eighty-first meeting of the Board of Governors was held at the club house on Monday evening, June 9, 1902.

Present: Messrs. Andreini, Bruner, Luff, Scott and Perrin.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. H. A. Chapman for bound Vols. I and II of "The Adhesive."

The Treasurer's report showing a cash balance in bank of \$318.14, exclusive of \$1,000 bond, was read and approved.

The report of House Committee was read and received.

Moved, seconded and carried that the President appoint three judges to award the medals for the competitive exhibition of the stamps of Hayti and of the Balkan States to be held at the club house on Tuesday evening. June

The President appointed the following members to act as judges: Messrs.

P. F. Bruner, Jos. S. Rich and Crawford Capen.

The following application for membership was received and posted on the bulletin board:

Mr. F. L. STOLZ,

San Francisco, Cal.

Proposed by J. H. Makins; seconded by John N. Luff. Adjourned at 9 P. M.

ALBERT PERRIN, Secretary.





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The Postage Stamps

OF THE

United States,

By JOHN N. LUFF.

The most complete and elaborate history yet published of the adhesive postal issues of the United States Post Office Department, as well as the provisional issues by Postmasters and the semi-official Carriers' Etamps.

The book is the result of many years of study and research. Its author is widely known as an advanced collector and philatelic expert. Since its appearance as a serial in the American Journal of Philately, the work has been thoroughly revised and brought up to date. Many of the earlier chapters have been entirely rewritten and much new material has been added to the work. Expense has not been spared in seeking matter to add to the interest of the book and likewise, in its mechanical production.

The book will contain over 400 pages, small quarto-

size. There will be two editions:

A regular edition, on fine paper, bound in cloth.

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the author, on hand-made linen paper, bound in half
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JUNE BARGAINS.

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Persia, 189	, Provisionals, set	of 3, complete,							.75

10 per cent, discount allowed on single stamps.